

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for July 22, 2012

The Ministry of the Two Messengers
Revelation 11:3-6

Remember that these verses serve as a parenthesis between the sixth and seventh trumpet judgments. This parenthetical section begins in Revelation 10:1 and continues through Revelation 11:14.

Here in Revelation 11:3-6, John reveals 5 elements of the ministry of these two messengers.

I. First, John reveals the nature of their ministry (Revelation 11:3).

A. They function as witnesses.

B. They function as prophets.

II. Second, John reveals the duration of their ministry (Revelation 11:3).

The duration of their ministry is 3½ years, in particular the last 3½ years of the tribulation period.

III. Third, John reveals the attitude of their ministry (Revelation 11:3).

These two messengers will put on sackcloth as an object lesson to express their great sorrow.

IV. Fourth, John reveals the character of their ministry (Revelation 11:4; Zechariah 4:1-14).

The repetition of this prophecy here in Revelation 11 suggests that these two messengers will likewise carry out their prophetic office as bearers of true light through the power of the Holy Spirit.

V. Fifth, John reveals the power of their ministry (Revelation 11:5-6).

A. Their power is demonstrated in their ability to safeguard themselves.

B. Their power is demonstrated in their ability to stop the rain.

C. Their power is demonstrated in their ability to switch water to blood.

D. Their power is demonstrated in their ability to strike the earth with plagues.

As believers in Christ, we need to represent Christ in our world by what we say, proclaiming the truth of God's Word; and by what we do, living in such a way that God is glorified (Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:15).